



LATE

TO: Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2015
PLACE: Conference Room 229
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 820 HD2, RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 820 HD2. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in **support** of this bill which would establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools. We have been committed to advancing early learning across the state and have served in a leadership role with the state's Early Learning Advisory Board which unequivocally supports early learning.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and three- and four-year-olds at preschool sites statewide. In 2004, the Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani Early Childhood Collaborative program. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other preschools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

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March 16, 2015

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair Senate Committee on Education – Hawaii State Capitol

RE: HB 820, HD2 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii **supports HB 820, HD2** which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

The CCCs reaffirms and emphasizes the importance of the following aspects of the bill:

- 1) Coordination with other agencies and programs to facilitate comprehensive services for early childhood education.
 - a. Collaboration between the multiple programs is an essential and necessary component to achieve the goal of the bill.
- 2) Collection of data to evaluate the services provided, inform policy and make any improvements to the program.
 - a. Changes in the program should be objectively based on facts. Different geographical areas may have specific needs which will not be evident but displayed and supported in the analysis and breakdown of the data.
- 3) Family Engagement
 - a. The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) in December 2011, released a study indicating families increase their home activities to support child development during the time their children are enrolled in Head Start, and they continue with these activities even after enrollment ends. There are many ways that Head Start and other pre-education and DOE programs engage families such as sharing children's progress, assessment practices, regular communication and much more.
- 4) Alignment with the Hawaii early learning and development standards, which align with department of education standards, including common core state standards, state content and Performance standards, and general learner outcomes for grades kindergarten to twelve, to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children.
 - a. The goal is for our children to have a seamless transition into Kindergarten and continue their education career so it is essential that the curriculum aligns with the State and National standards.

The CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

We respectfully request your consideration of SB844. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 586-5363. Thank you for considering our testimony,

Tom Smith, Co-Chair
(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair